

MY HEBER VALLEY - by Theron Luke

WHEN I SOUGHT A TITLE FOR THIS TALK, I UNHESITATINGLY SETTLED ON
"MY HEBER VALLEY."

IF THIS SEEMS A BIT POSSESSIVE, LET ME HASTEN TO SHARE IT WITH ANYONE
HERE WHO WANTS TO CLAIM IT. I WOULD SHARE IT WITH ANYONE FORTUNATE
ENOUGH TO HAVE BEEN BORN HERE, LIVED HERE, OR WHO LIVES HERE NOW IN
THIS SPARKLING, GREEN (ALBIET A BIT WHITE IN THE WINTER) JEWEL OF THE
MOUNTAINS.

IF THIS SOUNDS A BIT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SO BE IT. ALL I CAN SAY
IS, IT COMES FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED ABOUT MY GROWING AFFECTION FOR HEBER
VALLEY, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT WHILE I WAS BORN HERE, I HAVE LIVED
HERE LESS THAN A DOZEN OF MY 72 YEARS. WITH THE DEATH OF MY SISTER
AS THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF THE FAMILY IN THE VALLEY, I DON'T GET
UP HERE VERY OFTEN ANYMORE. THE PEOPLE I KNEW ARE GONE OR FORGOTTEN.
GONE LONG AGO ARE THE CONTEMPORARIES OF MY PARENTS

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WHO WOULD SAY, "I KNEW AUNT FID," THE NICKNAME MY MOTHER CARRIED ALL HER LIFE AS A CONTRACTION OF HER FATHER CALLING HER "FIDDLESTICKS" AS A CHILD. SHE WAS LDS STATE ~~RELIEF SOCIETY~~ PRESIDENT FROM 1915 TO 1920 WHEN SHE MOVED AWAY, IN THE DAYS WHEN THE STAKE RELIEF SOCIETY PRESIDENT WAS THE QUEEN BEE OF ANY MORMON COMMUNITY.

OR THOSE WHO WOULD STOP ME AND SAY: "LET ME TELL YOU A STORY I ~~HEARD~~ REMEMBER JACK LUKE TELLING." THE STORY WOULD BE CORNY, BUT A KNEE-SLAPPER. I AM CONVINCED MY FATHER WAS, IN A SORT OF DRY, RESERVED WAY, A KIND OF WILL ROGERS OF HEBER.

A CEMETERY IS ALWAYS A LINK WITH ONE'S BIRTHPLACE, AND ALONG THAT GENTLE HILL TO THE NORTHEAST LIE MY PARENTS, TWO SISTERS AND A BROTHER. AND OF COURSE MY GRANDPARENTS AND A MILLION AUNTS, UNCLES AND COUSINS. ONE LOT WAS OBTAINED BY MY FATHER WHO, AS A BOY, HELPED GRUB IT OUT OF THE SAGEBRUSH. IN A CORNER OF IT, I WILL SOMEDAY LIE.

MEMORIES CAME FLOODING BACK AS I WROTE THIS OF MY BOYHOOD

UNTIL I WAS EIGHT, IN WHAT SEEMED ANOTHER WORLD WHEN COMPARED TO TODAY. OF DRIVING COWS MORNING AND NIGHT TO THE NORTH FIELDS. OF STANDING TERRIFIED WHEN LONG-LIMBED CRANES STOOD ON ONE LEG BLOCKING THE LANE TO THE PASTURE GATE. OF DRINKING FROM THE ICE-COLD, HEAVENLY CLEAR SPRING ON THE WAY TO THE NORTH FIELDS. IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE ONE THE FIRST PIONEERS NAMED LONDON SPRING IN THE SUMMER OF 1859. OF RIDING BAREBACK (I NEVER DID SEEM TO ACQUIRE A SADDLE) ON MY OWN HORSE, WHICH MOST HEBER BOYS WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE IN THOSE DAYS.

OF RETURNING FOR PART OF MY JUNIOR AND ALL OF MY SENIOR YEAR AT THE ORIGINAL WASATCH HIGH SCHOOL DOWN THE STREET A PIECE. OF AN UNDISTINGUISHED CAREER AS RIGHT HALFBACK ON THE FOOTBALL TEAM WHEN WE WON VERY LITTLE, AND IT WAS A FAR GREATER HONOR TO BE IN THE BAND, WHICH WON NEARLY EVERYTHING.

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME, OR PERHAPS TOO MUCH. MY ONLY DEFENSE IS THAT NOSTALGIA IS LIKE HEADY WINE, OR PERHAPS WHAT MY FATHER USED

TO IMBIBE AT ONE OF HEBER'S FOUR THRIVING SALOONS — ONCE YOU START
TO SIP OF IT, IT'S HARD TO STOP.

HEBER VALLEY WAS FIRST CALLED PROVO ^{River} VALLEY, AFTER PROVO RIVER.

THE LATTER IN TURN WAS EVEN EARLIER NAMED TIMPANOGOS RIVER (HOWARD STANSBURY'S MAP OF 1849 CARRIES THIS DESIGNATION).

WHO WERE THE FIRST WHITE MEN INTO THE VALLEY? WE DON'T KNOW FOR

AN ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY, BUT A GOOD BET WOULD BE ETEINNE PROVOST WHO IS BELIEVED BY SOME GOOD HISTORIANS TO HAVE COME THROUGH HERE IN 1824 AFTER ESCAPING AN INDIAN AMBUSH NEAR UTAH LAKE. WE DO KNOW THAT PROVOST CAME BACK INTO HEBER VALLEY THE NEXT YEAR, 1825, AS A GUIDE FOR WILLIAM H. ASHLEY AFTER WINTERING IN THE UNTAH BASIN COUNTRY.

FROM THEN ON A VALLEY AS VERDANT AND UNTRAMMELED MUST HAVE ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF OTHER MOUNTAIN MEN AND TRAPPERS IN THE ENSUING YEARS BEFORE SETTLEMENT.

FATHERS DOMINGUES AND ESCALANTE ENTERED WHAT WAS LATER WASATCH COUNTY IN 1776, BUT THEY TURNED DOWN DIAMOND FORK INTO SPANISH FORK CANYON BEFORE REACHING THIS VALLEY. I ONCE HEARD A DEAR WASATCH COUNTY LADY TELL A GROUP THEY CAME THROUGH THIS VALLEY BECAUSE THEY WROTE ABOUT THE HOTPOTS. THEY WERE WRITING ABOUT THE HOT SPRINGS AT CASTELLA IN SPANISH FORK CANYON.

ACTUALLY, HEBER VALLEY, THEN PROVO VALLEY ^{River} REMEMBER, WAS A LATE-BLOOMER AS FAR AS SETTLEMENT WAS CONCERNED. ONLY A FIGURATIVE STONE'S THROW FROM UTAH VALLEY, COMPARED WITH OTHER SETTLEMENT DISTANCES IN UTAH, HEBER VALLEY WAS NOT SETTLED UNTIL NEARLY A DECADE AFTER UTAH VALLEY AND OTHER FAR MORE REMOTE PLACES HAD BEEN PERMANENTLY OCCUPIED. WHY? PROVO CANYON WAS A BRUSH AND TREE-CHOCKED OBSTACLE UNTIL A ROAD WAS BUILT UP IT. AND THIS WAS NOT DONE UNTIL LATE 1858 BY MEN FROM UTAH VALLEY UNDER THE PERSONAL URGING OF BRIGHAM YOUNG. A BILL WAS PASSED BY THE 1855 TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE TO BUILD SUCH A ROAD BUT IT WAS NOT DONE UNTIL THREE YEARS LATER.

THE STORY IS TOLD OF THE GROUP OF SAWMILL WORKERS WHO HIKED TO
THE TOP OF THE SUMMIT ABOVE BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON ONE SUMMER SUNDAY
IN 1857 AND LOOKED DOWN UPON THE VALLEY. THEY TOLD OTHERS.

EVEN BEFORE THE CANYON ROAD WAS FINISHED (IN THOSE DAYS NEARLY
EVERYONE SPELLED IT "CANON" WITHOUT THE "Y") THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD
SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN TAKEN. IT WAS THE SPRING OF 1858, ACTUALLY BEFORE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD HAD BEGUN, THAT "WILLIAM WALL, GEORGE W.
DEAN, AARON DANIELS AND A FEW OTHERS", ALL OF PROVO, DROVE STOCK UP
THE CANYON AND ESTABLISHED RANCHES AND GRAZING GROUND "IN THE SOUTH
END OF THE VALLEY." WITH AN EYE TOWARD WINTERING THEIR CATTLE, THEY
HARVESTED A CROP OF MEADOW HAY. IT WAS THE SAME HAY WE HARVESTED
AS WILD HAY, OR TIMOTHY, IN THE NORTH FIELDS WHEN I WAS A BOY.

THE QUOTES AND GENERAL STATEMENTS ARE FROM THAT VERY EXCELLENT
BOOK, "HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS," PUBLISHED IN 1963 BY THE
WASATCH COUNTY CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS.

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THE YEAR 1858 WAS REALLY THE TURNING POINT IN PREPARATIONS AND
RESOLVE FOR SETTLEMENT. WHILE THE FIRST CATTLE WERE GRAZING ON THE
LUSH SOUTHERN MEADOWS, OTHER MEN WERE EXPLORING THE VALLEY, AND IN
JULY OF THAT SUMMER A SURVEY PARTY FROM PROVO, HEADED BY J.W. SNOW, *J.C Snow* [?] *J.E Snow*
A COUNTY SURVEYOR OF THAT AREA, LAID OUT A SECTION OF GROUND JUST
NORTH OF THE PRESENT SITE OF HEBER. TWENTY ACRE TRACTS WERE SURVEYED
AND EACH MAN OF THE PARTY, WHOSE NUMBER IS NOT SPECIFIED, SELECTED HIS
FARM.

THE URGENCY OF A ROAD CAME NEXT, AND CONSTRUCTION GOT UNDERWAY
of 1858.
TO BE FINISHED BY OCTOBER ~~1858~~ BRIGHAM YOUNG HIMSELF CALLED A MEETING IN
PROVO ON JUNE 6 TO GET THE PROJECT UNDERWAY. AMONG OTHER THINGS,
THEY SPANNED PROVO RIVER WITH A BRIDGE AT THE MOUTH OF THE CANYON.

by Henry Grow

IRONICALLY, IT WAS THIS ROAD THAT THE U.S. ARMY USED TO SUPPLY
CAMP FLOYD IN CEDAR VALLEY WEST OF UTAH LAKE. *Camp Floyd* ^{before it was}
ABANDONED IN 1861, THE ARMY TRACKED OUT ITS OWN SUPPLY ROAD TAKING

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OFF FROM ECHO CANYON NEAR COALVILLE AND Wanship, GOING THROUGH
KAMAS AND HEBER VALLEYS, AND DOWN PROVO CANYON TO UTAH AND THEN
CEDAR VALLEYS.

ON THE LAST DAY IN APRIL OF 1859, 11 MEN AND THREE WAGONS HEADED
UP THE NEW ROAD FROM UTAH VALLEY. THEIR FAMILIES REMAINED
TEMPORARILY BEHIND.

THEIR NAMES? THE BASIC ROOTS OF WHAT BECAME HEBER. THOMAS
RASBAND, JOHN CROOK, CHARLES N. CARROL, JOHN CARLISLE, JOHN JORDAN,
HENRY CHATWIN, JESSE BOND, JAMES CARLISLE, WILLIAM GILES JR., WILLIAM
CARPENTER AND GEORGE CARLISLE. NOTE THE THREE CARLISLES, THE FUSTEST
WITH THE MOSTEST.

JOHN CROOK'S JOURNAL SAYS THEY CAMPED THE NIGHT OF APRIL 30, 1859,
AT A SNOWSLIDE, DISSEMBLING THEIR WAGONS AND CARRYING THEM OVER THE
NEXT DAY, CAMPING AT WILLIAM WALL'S RANCH ON MAY 1.

REACHING APPROXIMATELY THE PRESENT SITE OF HEBER, THEY WERE

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CONFRONTED BY WILLIAM DAVIDSON, ROBERT BROADHEAD AND JAMES DAVIS

ALREADY PLOWING. DAVIDSON HAD HIS FAMILY.

from Suds Co.

JOHN CROOK'S JOURNAL, NOR ANY OTHER, GIVES NO FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THESE THREE SURPRISE FIRST SETTLERS, AT LEAST NOT IN "HOW BEAUTIFUL
UPON THE MOUNTAINS." WE CAN SPECULATE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY PROBABLY
UNCEREMONIOUSLY AND WITHOUT FANFARE STARTED UP PROVO CANYON A FEW
DAYS BEFORE THE 11 WHO FOLLOWED THEM. AT ANY RATE, THEY GOT THERE
FUSTEST.

THE 11 MEN LEFT THE THREE PLOWING AND PROCEEDED ABOUT A MILE
FARTHER NORTH. MOST OF THEM HAD ORIGINALLY COME FROM GREAT BRITAIN.
THEY CALLED IT LONDON. THE SPRING RETAINED THAT NAME. AS A BOY, I
KNEW THE AREA AS THE LONDON FIELDS, OR THE NEW LONDON FIELDS, AS SOME
CLAIM THEY WERE ALSO CALLED.

CLAIMING AND CLEARING AN ACREAGE SITE AND BUILDING LOG HOUSES TO
REPLACE TENTS WAS THE NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS. THE OLD FORT WAS

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BUILT IN A RECTANGULAR SHAPE BUT ONLY WITH THE HOUSES CLOSE TOGETHER.

ASIDE FROM REQUIRED CORRALS, THERE SEEKS TO BE NO EVIDENCE OF

SURROUNDING IT WITH A STOCKADE. THE FORT WAS BUILT BETWEEN WHAT IS

NOW FIRST AND FOURTH WEST AND SECOND AND FIFTH NORTH. AN EARLY SKETCH

SHOWS A RECTANGULAR DRAWING OF SQUARES REPRESENTING 67 HOUSES AND

A SCHOOLHOUSE. THE SKETCH CLAIMED IT REPRESENTED THE WINTER OF 1859-

60. THIS HAS TO BE AN ERROR HOWEVER, BECAUSE THAT WAS THE FIRST WINTER

SETTLERS STAYED IN THE VALLEY AND SOURCES PLAINLY STATE THERE WERE

ONLY 18 FAMILIES WHO SPENT THAT WINTER IN THE VALLEY. THE POPULATION

TEMPORARILY SWELLED AT CHRISTMAS TIME WHEN A LARGE PARTY OF

MERRymakers CAME BY SLED FROM PROVO TO STAGE A CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

CELEBRATION.

BY JUNE OF 1860, IT WAS ESTIMATED THERE WERE MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE

LIVING AND WORKING IN THE VALLEY. AMONG THEM WERE ALL FOUR OF MY

GRANDPARENTS.

ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF JUNE IN 1859, WHILE THOSE FIRST SETTLERS WERE

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June 1859 SCRATCHING OUT A TOEHOLD FOR THE FIRST WINTER, A SURVEY WAS BEGUN OF
WHAT WAS CALLED THE LONDON TOWNSITE. IT WAS BY JESSE FULLER, A DEPUTY
COUNTY SURVEYOR OF UTAH COUNTY. HE SURVEYED OFF SOME 40 BLOCKS AND
A TIER EIGHT BLOCKS LONG AND FIVE WIDE OF WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY NOW THE
WEST SIDE OF HEBER. EACH BLOCK WAS DIVIDED INTO FOUR LOTS. THE HOUSE
WHERE I WAS BORN WAS LATER BUILT IN THIS AREA AND WE HAD A QUARTER OF
A BLOCK FOR A LOT, AS DID MOST PEOPLE AT THAT TIME. THE EAST HALF OF
HEBER, EAST OF A SEVEN-ROD WIDE MAIN STREET, WAS LAID OUT SEVERAL
MONTHS LATER.

THERE APPEARED TO BE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE NAME. AFTER ALL,
THE WORLD ALREADY HAD A LONDON, AND THERE WERE SEVERAL NEW LONDONS
IN THE UNITED STATES. WHY NOT SOMETHING ORIGINAL, AND CLOSER TO HOME?

MOST OF THE EARLY SETTLERS HAD COME FROM GREAT BRITAIN. HEBER
C. KIMBALL, BRIGHAM YOUNG'S STRONG RIGHT ARM, HAD BEEN IN CHARGE OF
THE FIRST GROUP OF MORMON MISSIONARIES TO THE BRITISH ISLES. IT WAS A

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NATURAL. ON LEARNING OF THE MOVEMENT, HEBER C. KIMBALL IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID: "NOW YOU PEOPLE HAVE NAMED YOUR LITTLE TOWN AFTER ME. I WANT YOU TO SEE TO IT THAT YOU ARE HONEST, UPRIGHT CITIZENS AND GOOD LATTER-DAY SAINTS THAT I MAY NOT HAVE CAUSE TO BE ASHAMED OF YOU."

THE TOWN HAD A BEAUTIFUL VALLEY, STURDY PEOPLE, AND NOW A NAME.

HEBER WAS LAUNCHED AND ON ITS WAY.

A MENTION WORTHY OF NOTE IS THE BIRTH OF THE FIRST CHILD IN THE VALLEY. A TINY, DEFENSELESS LITTLE GIRL, DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM AND ELLEN DAVIDSON WAS NAMED OF ALL THINGS, AFTER A MASSIVE MOUNTAIN, TIMPANOgos. HISTORY DOES NOT RECORD HOW SHE BORE UP UNDER THE WEIGHT OF IT.

AND WHILE WE'RE STILL ON THE SUBJECT OF NAMES, EVER THINK OF HOW MIDWAY GOT ITS MONIKER?

I'M AMAZED AT HOW FEW DO. AND ONLY IN THIS VALLEY COULD IT HAVE HAPPENED. THE UPPER AND LOWER SNAKE CREEK SETTLEMENTS, ROUGHLY THE GOLF COURSE AND CHARLESTON, HAD BEEN SETTLED SOON AFTER HEBER. BUT BY 1866 BLACK HAWK INDIAN WAR DANGERS BROUGHT ORDERS FOR THEM TO MOVE TOGETHER. BUT THE AREA WAS SETTLED THEN, AS NOW, WITH INDUSTRIOUS, BUT STUBBORN GERMAN, SWISS AND DUTCH. NEITHER SETTLEMENT WOULD BUDGE TOWARD THE OTHER. ORDERS CAME FROM THE BRETHREN TO GET TOGETHER, OR ELSE. MIDWAY RESULTED.

AND WHILE WE'RE ON INDIAN TROUBLES, I HAD ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT HEBER VALLEY WAS ALWAYS ON THE FRINGES. SOME SCARES AND ANXIETY BUT NO REAL DANGER. A CAREFUL PERUSAL OF PETER GOTTFREDSON'S 1919 INDIAN DEPREDATIONS IN UTAH SOON CHANGED MY MIND. FROM MAY UNTIL OCTOBER OF 1866, UINTAH BASIN UTES DASHED RIGHT INTO HEBER VALLEY, SOMETIMES AS CLOSE AS A MILE FROM TOWN, IN HALF A DOZEN SEPARATE RAIDS, EACH ONE NETTING SOME WHITE MAN'S CATTLE, HORSES AND MULES.

WASATCH COUNTY'S NAUVOO LEGION, THE MORMON EQUIVALENT OF

TERRITORIAL MILITIA, WENT ON A FULL WAR FOOTING.

1866
1867?

IN MID-MAY, INDIANS RAIDED DOWN THE EAST SLOPE OF HEBER VALLEY AND SUCCESSFULLY DROVE 40 OR 50 CATTLE BACK ACROSS THE DIVIDE. A MORMON POSSE GAVE CHASE AND WAS FORCED TO GIVE UP AFTER THEIR HORSES FLOUNDERED IN THE BELLY-DEEP SNOW. IN EARLY JULY, INDIANS RAIDED TIGHT DOWN INTO TOM HANDLEY'S CORRAL IN EAST HEBER AND MADE OFF WITH TWO OXEN AND A HEIFER. A LEGION POSSE GAVE CHASE, CAUGHT UP WITH THE INDIANS ACROSS THE DIVIDE AS THE REDSKINS WERE COOKING ONE OF THE BEEF, AND OPENED FIRE. ONE INDIAN FELL OVER, BELIEVED HIT. HIS COMRADES APPARENTLY CARRIED HIM AWAY. THE MORMON MILITIAMEN RECOVERED THE TWO OXEN AND THE INDIAN'S HORSES.

IN AUGUST, INDIANS STOLE JOHN MUIR'S MULES AND JOHN TURNER'S HORSES OUT OF A CORRAL RIGHT ON THE EAST EDGE OF HEBER. TURNER GOT HIS HORSES BACK THROUGH FRIENDLY INDIANS. MUIR NEVER DID RECOVER TWO FINE MULES. IN AUGUST, JOHN LEE'S HORSES WERE STOLEN FROM HIS PASTURE A MILE EAST OF TOWN. MORMONS GAVE CHASE AND RECOVERED THE HORSES NORTH OF TOWN WHEN THE INDIANS ABANDONED THEM. TEN DAYS

LATER, INDIANS STOLE THE SAME HORSES AGAIN OUT OF THE SAME PASTURE. THIS TIME LEE WAS NOT SO LUCKY. ONE HORSE WAS RECOVERED.

IN SEPTEMBER, INDIANS BROKE RIGHT INTO WILLIAM WALL'S STABLE IN SOUTH HEBER, STEALING TWO FINE MARES. THEY WERE FOUND SHOT, APPARENTLY BY THEIR CAPTORS WHO WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY HANDLING THEM. ABOUT THIS TIME CHARLES WILKIN HAD TWO YOKE OF OXEN STOLEN BY REDSKINS AT HIS CENTER CREEK SAWMILL. INDIANS KILLED ONE AND MADE OFF WITH THE MEAT. WILKIN RECOVERED THE OTHER THREE.

IN THE LAST SERIOUS RAID DURING THE TURBULENT SUMMER OF 1866, INDIANS STOLE SOME HORSES, THE NUMBER WAS NOT SPECIFIED, AGAIN RIGHT OUT OF A CORRAL IN SOUTH HEBER. THEY DROVE THEM DOWN PROVO CANYON A WAYS, UP OVER THE DIVIDE INTO AMERICAN FORK CANYON, DOWN ACROSS THE JORDAN AND INTO CEDAR VALLEY. SIXTEEN MORMON MILITIAMEN FROM HEBER GAVE PURSUIT BUT GAVE IT UP IN CEDAR VALLEY WHEN THEY FIGURED THE INDIANS WERE JUST TOO FAR AHEAD.

PURSUIT ON ONE OF THE RAIDS IN AUGUST ENDED ON A GRIM NOTE WITH THE WOUNDING OF TWO MORMONS, N.C. MURDOCK AND GEORGE BONNER, BY ANOTHER GROUP OF TRIGGER-HAPPY MILITIAMEN WHO OPENED FIRE ON THEM WITHOUT ORDERS THINKING THEM TO BE INDIANS. BOTH MEN RECOVERED.

THE INDIAN WAR ENDED FOR HEBER VALLEY IN AUGUST OF 1867 WHEN CHIEF TABBY WAS PERSUADED TO COME IN FOR A PEACE CONFERENCE. THE CHIEF BROUGHT INDIANS HE COULD CONTROL, BUT CAME IN MINUS THE HOT-HEADED FOLLOWERS OF BLACK HAWK, WHOM HE COULD NOT. MORMONS KILLED AN OX, TOLD THE INDIANS THEY COULD HAVE ALL THE SECOND HELPINGS THEY WANTED, AND, WORD OF WISDOM OR NOT, CEREMONIOUSLY SMOKED THE PEACE PIPE.

THE ACCOUNT, PROBABLY WRITTEN BY HISTORIAN JOHN CROOK, ENDED RESIGNEDLY WITH: "ON LEAVING OUR VALLEY, THESE INDIANS STOLE 30 OF OUR HORSES."

SO ... ENOUGH OF HISTORY AND BACK TO HEBER TODAY.. IT IS CHANGING.

A GAPING HOLE STILL STANDS WHERE FIRE TOOK THE HEBER MERC. THE DAY THEY TORE DOWN THE HEBER EXCHANGE I THOUGHT THE ROCK OF GIBRALTER WOULD BE NEXT.

WHAT USED TO BE FRANK EPPERSON'S BARBER SHOP HASN'T BEEN PAINTED SINCE I USED TO GO THERE AS A BOY WITH MY FATHER FOR HIS MORNING SHAVE, WHEN EACH MAN HAD A HAND-LETTERED SHAVING MUG IN A NICHE ALONG THE Wall calendar with the WALL. AND WHO REMEMBERS THE BEAR CHARGING ON A KNEELING HUNTER ON THE BARBER SHOP WALL WITH THE CAPTION: "A TIGHT SPOT,"

SOME OTHER LANDMARKS ARE GONE TOO. REMEMBER THE LONG-VANISHED OLD WASATCH COUNTY JAIL? IT TOOK THE LATE FERRON VAN WAGONER TO DESCRIBE IT AS "THE ONLY JAIL IN AMERICA WHERE A FLOCK OF GEESE COULD FLY THROUGH IT WITHOUT BREAKING FORMATION."

WALLACE STEGNER, A PULITZER PRIZE WINNING WRITER, LIVED IN UTAH FOR SEVERAL YEARS BUT NEVER IN HEBER VALLEY.

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HE WROTE OF IT, HOWEVER, IN AN ARTICLE FOR VOGUE MAGAZINE IN 1958.

WITH THE SIMPLE ELOQUENCE WHICH LATER WON HIM A PULITZER PRIZE,
HE SAID AS HE GAZED DOWN FROM SNAKE CREEK: "IF I HAD BEEN LOOKING
FOR THE PROMISED LAND I COULD HAVE FOUND NONE FAIRER. THE AIR THAT
DAY TASTED AND SMELLED LIKE THE DAY IT WAS MADE."

WHEN I FINALLY GO INTO THAT CORNER PLOT OF MY FATHER'S CEMETERY
LOT, I'M CONVINCED THAT'S THE DAY THE AIR WILL TASTE AND SMELL.

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO NOTICE IT, BUT THE THOUSANDS WHO STILL LIVE
HERE WILL.

IT WILL STILL BE WALLACE STEGNER'S PROMISED LAND.